AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-34 are pending in the subject application. Each of claims 1, 9-10, 12, 20-21, 23-26, 28-29, and 32-33 have been amended herein, and claim 27 has been cancelled. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added by way of the present claim amendments and that the amendments are supported by the as-filed specification and drawing figures. All claims currently pending and under consideration in the referenced application are shown below. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A system for analyzing clinically related data, comprising:

a first interface to a clinical data store storing clinically related data;

a second interface to a knowledge base; and

an inference engine, the inference engine communicating with the clinical data store via the first interface and with the knowledge base via the second interface, the inference engine configured to selectively perform comparative analysis of the clinically related data against the knowledge base, wherein the comparative analysis projects at least one facility-wide outcome based on an analysis of the clinically related data and a clinical guideline selected from the knowledge base.

2. (Original)   A system according to claim 1, wherein the clinical data store comprises a data warehouse.

3.   (Original)   A system according to claim 2, wherein the data warehouse stores clinically related data from at least one clinical facility.

4.   (Original)   A system according to claim 3, wherein the at least one clinical facility comprises at least one of a hospital site and a research site.

5.   (Original)   A system according to claim 1, wherein the comparative analysis comprises an analysis of at least one key performance indicator.

6.   (Original)   A system according to claim 1, wherein the knowledge base comprises a set of clinical guidelines.

7.   (Original)   A system according to claim 6, wherein the clinical guidelines comprise best practices data.

8.   (Original)   A system according to claim 7, wherein the best practices data comprises pharmaceutical information, medical procedure information and historical outcomes information.

9.   (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 1, wherein the inference engine at least one facility-wide outcome comprises a financial outcome, an operational outcome, or a clinical outcome corresponding with a plurality of patients, or a combination thereof generates projected outcomes information based on the clinically related data and the knowledge base.

10. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 9, wherein the <u>at least one facility-wide outcome</u> ~~projected outcomes information~~ comprises at least one of estimated patient mortality information, estimated patient morbidity information and estimated clinical cost information.

11. (Original) A system according to claim 1, wherein the inference engine stores the comparative analysis to storage.

12. (Currently Amended) A <u>computer-implemented</u> method of analyzing clinically related data, comprising:

accessing clinically related data;

accessing a knowledge base; and

selectively performing a comparative analysis of the clinically related data against the knowledge base<u>, wherein the comparative analysis projects at least one facility-wide outcome based on an analysis of the clinically related data and a clinical guideline selected from the knowledge base</u>.

13. (Original) A method according to claim 12, wherein the step of accessing clinically related data comprises accessing a data warehouse.

14. (Original) A method according to claim 13, wherein the data warehouse stores clinically related data from at least one clinical facility.

15. (Original) A method according to claim 14, wherein the at least one clinical facility comprises at least one of a hospital site and a research site.

16. (Original) A method according to claim 12, wherein the step of selectively performing a comparative analysis comprises performing an analysis of at least one key performance indicator.

17. (Original) A method according to claim 12, wherein the knowledge base comprises a set of clinical guidelines.

18. (Original) A method according to claim 17, wherein the clinical guidelines comprise best practices data.

19. (Original) A method according to claim 18, wherein the best practices data comprises pharmaceutical information, medical procedure information and historical outcomes information.

20. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 12, wherein the <u>at least one facility-wide outcome comprises a financial outcome, an operational outcome, or a clinical outcome corresponding with a plurality of patients, or a combination thereof</u> ~~step of performing a comparative analysis comprises a step of generating projected outcomes information based on the clinically related data and the knowledge base~~.

21. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 20, wherein the <u>at least one facility-wide outcome</u> ~~projected outcomes information~~ comprises at least one of estimated patient mortality information, estimated patient morbidity information and estimated clinical cost information.

22. (Original) A method according to claim 12, further comprising a step of storing the comparative analysis to storage.

23. (Currently Amended) ~~An analytic clinical report, the report being generated according to a~~ A computer-implemented method of generating an analytic report, the method comprising:

receiving a first selection of one of a plurality of policies and procedures stored within a knowledge base;

accessing clinically related data corresponding with a plurality of patients;

~~accessing a knowledge base;~~

selectively performing a comparative analysis of the clinically related data against the first selected policy or procedure contained within the knowledge base to provide an indication as to whether the first selected policy or procedure has been attained by a medical facility;

receiving a second selection of one of the plurality of policies and procedures stored within a knowledge base;

using the second selected policy or procedure and the clinically related data corresponding with the plurality of patients to perform a predictive analysis that projects at least one operational, financial, or facility-wide outcome that might result if the second selected policy or procedure is used by the medical facility.

24. (Currently Amended) ~~A report~~ The method according to claim 23, wherein the step of accessing clinically related data comprises accessing a data warehouse.

25. (Currently Amended) ~~A report~~ The method according to claim 23, wherein the step of selectively performing a comparative analysis comprises performing an analysis of at least one key performance indicator.

26. (Currently Amended) ~~A report~~ The method according to claim 23, wherein the knowledge base comprises a set of clinical guidelines.

27. (Cancelled).

28. (Currently Amended) ~~A report~~ The method according to claim 23, wherein the at least one operational, financial, or facility-wide outcome corresponding with a plurality of patients ~~projected outcomes information~~ comprises at least one of estimated patient mortality information, estimated patient morbidity information and estimated clinical cost information.

29. (Currently Amended) A system for analyzing clinically related data, comprising:

communications interface means, the communications interface means comprising a first interface to clinical data storage means for storing clinically related data and a second interface to knowledge base means for storing clinical guidelines; and

inference engine means, the inference engine means communicating with the clinical data store and with the knowledge base via the communications interface means, the inference engine means configured to selectively perform comparative analysis of the clinically related data against the clinical guidelines.

wherein the comparative analysis projects at least one facility-wide outcome based on an analysis of the clinically related data and a clinical guideline selected from the knowledge base.

30.   (Original)   A system according to claim 29, wherein the clinical data storage means comprises a data warehouse.

31.   (Original)   A system according to claim 29, wherein the comparative analysis comprises an analysis of at least one key performance indicator.

32.   (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 29, wherein the at least one facility-wide outcome comprises a financial outcome, an operational outcome, or a clinical outcome corresponding with a plurality of patients, or a combination thereof inference engine means generates projected outcomes information based on the clinically related data and the clinical guidelines.

33.   (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 32, wherein the at least one facility-wide outcome projected outcomes information comprises at least one of estimated patient mortality information, estimated patient morbidity information and estimated clinical cost information.

34.   (Original)   A system according to claim 29, wherein the inference engine means stores the comparative analysis to storage.